

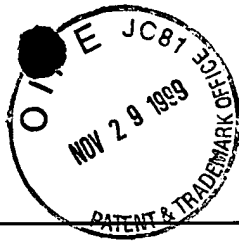
the effective filing date of its PCT application, September 1, 1995, co-pendency certainly exists with PCT/EP93/03700 filed December 27, 1995. As a result of this amendment, this application now has an effective filing date of December 27, 1993 for the subject matter disclosed in PCT/EP93/03700 (ignoring, for the moment, the claim to priority to VR93A000002). A suitable supplemental declaration will be filed in due course. The inventive entity does not change.

PCT/EP93/03700 published as WO 94/15863 which published on July 21, 1994. The Examiner rejects many claims based on WO 94/15863 and since this application now enjoys an earlier effective filing date for the subject matter disclosed by PCT/EP93/03700, WO 94/15863 is no longer available as a reference against such subject matter. As such the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the prior art rejections in view of these developments.

It is also noted that the claimed foreign priority date of PCT/EP93/03700 is January 12, 1993 which predates the publication date of GB 2 263 660 cited by the Examiner. It is assumed that the Examiner can find a copy of the relevant priority document in either USSN 08/481,458 or 09/914,134, should the need arise. If the priority document is missing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to so advise the undersigned.

The Examiner also rejected the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. As the examiner will note, the claims have been carefully amended in order to address the problems noted by the Examiner.

08/809,340
November 24, 1999



Response

Page 10

An IDS is enclosed herewith together with the fee required by 37 CFR 1.17 (p). The examiner is respectfully requested to make the documents cited therein of record in this application. The IDS transmits a copy of the search report issued in respect of PCT/EP93/03700 together with copies of the documents cited therein which are not already of record in this application. A number of the documents cited in that search report have already been considered by the Examiner (please see the previously filed IDS considered by the Examiner on December 29, 1997). Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

November 24, 1999
(Date of Deposit)

RICHARD P. BERG
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

November 24, 1999
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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